

COUNTRY

Eastern Germany

Approved For Release 2006/04/20 : CIA-RDP82-00457R015200240008-3

REPORT NO.

TOPIC

Kremmen Bomb and Target Range.

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE PREPARED

5 November 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES

3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

one sketch on ditto.

REMARKS

COPY

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1. On 24 July 1952, eight single-engine, low-wing monoplanes were observed flying toward Kremmen. Shortly afterward, detonations were heard from that direction.

2. Between 10:30 a.m. and noon on 30 July, three single-engine aircraft practiced firing at the Kremmen bomb and firing range. The planes also discharged a bazooka-like projectile. The same practices were held by 21 single-engine planes between 8 a.m. and 12:35 p.m. on 1 August. Bombs were also dropped from a low altitude.

Between 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on 5 August, aircraft flying in groups of three practiced firing at the field. Between 8 and 11 a.m. and from 2 to 7 p.m. on 7 August, aircraft dropped bombs during low-level flights. Air-to-ground firing and the discharge of bazooka-like projectiles at an angle of about 45° was also observed. Between noon and 2 p.m. on 29 August, a formation of 22 single-engine aircraft flying in groups of three approached the bomb range. The planes dropped bombs while flying horizontally at an altitude of about 200 meters and subsequently fired with their aircraft weapons. The leading edges of the rudder assemblies of the planes were blue. (2) Between 9 and 10 p.m., three single-engine planes dropped bombs at the range which was not lighted. The flare of the bursting bombs could easily be observed. At 8 p.m. on 4 September, about six single-engine planes approached the range at an altitude of about 1,000 meters, climbed to an altitude of about 2,000 meters near the range and then dropped bombs. At 8:20 p.m., the formation left again. Another formation of six planes arrived over the range at 8:30 p.m. and likewise dropped bombs. The range was not lighted, and the planes involved had their position lights switched on. On 29 August, truck [] having a driver who wore black-bordered blue epaulets proceeded to the range.

3. About 10 a.m. on 30 July, an IL-10 circled over the target range at an altitude of about 200 meters. The plane approached targets at an angle of about 50°, firing about three rounds from its guns at each approach. Four attacks were made. The plane pulled out from its dive at an altitude of about 60 meters. Between 10:45 a.m. and noon, three IL-10s, approaching at an altitude of about 200 meters, practiced air-to-ground firing. Subsequently, the planes climbed to an altitude of about 1,000 meters and practiced individual attacks discharging rocket-like projectiles. Each of the planes

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made two attacks, firing one projectile at each approach, which was made at an angle of about 45°. The planes pulled out at an altitude of about 300 meters. (1)

4. At 1:45 p.m. on 31 July, 24 IL-10s approached the field, circled the range several times, came down to an altitude of about 60 meters and then dropped bombs during low-level flights. The attacking planes flew in formations of three, the distances between the individual formations being about 100 meters. The formations made two attacks, one bomb being dropped by each plane at each attack. After releasing bombs, the planes fired with their guns while flying at an altitude of about 300 meters.

5. Between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on 1 August, 21 IL-10s were seen over the range. [redacted] The edges of the rudder assemblies of the planes involved were either grey or blue. The planes dropped bombs from an altitude of about 50 meters and subsequently fired five to six rounds from their aircraft weapons. After that, the planes attacked individually discharging rocket-like projectiles. They approached from an altitude of about 1,000 meters, at an angle of about 45° and pulled out at an altitude of about 300 meters.

6. From 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. on 15 August, 43 IL-10s were observed over the range. The planes had approached in formations of five to ten aircraft at intervals of up to 60 minutes. At first bombs were dropped during low-level flights. The fuzes of the bombs were set at a delay of 15 seconds and detonated only after the formation had crossed the target. The smoke mushrooms developed by the detonating bombs rose 20 to 40 meters high. After the release of the bombs, air-to-ground firing was practiced. Rockets were not fired. The aircraft involved had red propeller hubs and their rudder assemblies had blue leading edges. [redacted]

7. At 11:30 a.m. on 22 August, a formation of 25 ground attack aircraft crossed the range at an altitude of about 300 meters. The planes, which flew in groups of three, circled over the range going down to an altitude of 30 to 50 meters. The delayed-action bombs were then dropped from low-level flights, each plane dropping only one bomb at each approach. After having dropped its bombs, the formation broke up, nine aircraft climbing to an altitude of 800 to 1,000 meters, from which they dived to discharge two rockets; they then pulled out at an altitude of about 200 meters. The other aircraft practiced air-to-ground firing in the previously observed manner. After the formation had left the range, another formation of nine planes arrived for bomb release and firing to drop their

8. The detonation bombs produced a dull and not very loud sound. The terrain of the bomb range was swampy and soft. Lumps of earth were hurled higher than the blast cloud rose. Bombs were only dropped from low-level flights, and the formations involved in these exercises had been flying at an altitude of about 60 meters for some kilometers before reaching the bomb range. [redacted] the aircraft fired with their weapons while they were at an altitude of 80 to 90 meters. Immediately afterwards, the planes pulled out of their dive and climbed again. Most of the attacks were started from an altitude of about 200 meters. While firing with their arms, the aircraft of the individual flights kept a distance of several hundred meters from each other. When the rocket-like projectiles were fired, [redacted] hissing noise similar to that produced by fireworks. At the same time, a white plume of smoke and a jet of fire 50 to 60 cm long was seen. The projectile itself was visible for a short time after it had been discharged.

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No smoke trail or jet of fire was seen behind the rocket. Between the hissing report produced at the discharge of the rocket and its detonation, no noise was heard from the projectile; therefore [] not believe that it was propelled by rocket reaction. The burst of the projectile was similar to that produced by an AT gun shell. Hits by the rockets were seen on the wooden dummies at the range.

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9. The tank, vehicle and aircraft dummies at the range were of wood. The dummies showed many hits and the entire range area was dotted by shell holes. A former farm house with a wooden observation tower on its roof was occupied by two Soviet soldiers. The field path south of the range was blocked by two barriers, which were closed prior to the beginning of exercises at the field. The local population was warned by red flags two to three hours before the exercises began. [] two officers and several EM wearing blue epaulets standing on the observation tower. The Russians observed the training activities at the range through a battery commander's telescope and field glasses.

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10. [] fragments of a projectile, [] believed belonged to a rocket. (4) [] sketch of the target range. (5)

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11. On 15 August, sedan [] occupied by one officer wearing blue and two officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets entered the target range.

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12. On 12 August, truck [] whose driver wore black-bordered blue epaulets was seen at Kremmen.

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13. During the nights from 7 to 10 and 10 to 11 September, bombs were dropped at the range. (6)

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[] Comments.

- (1) The discharge of rockets from IL-10s was observed for the first time. The statement confirms the assumption that these planes are equipped with rockets.
(2) Blue leading edges of the rudder assemblies have so far been seen only with the ground attack regiment stationed at Stendal airfield. It is therefore believed that also this regiment uses the Kremmen bomb and target range, although Stendal is at a considerable distance from Kremmen. It is believed that the range is available to all the three regiments of the division.

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- (3) [] the projectile had a diameter of 82 mm. The propellant charge was contained in the middle of the projectile. The head of the projectile probably disintegrated at the burst. Contrary to [] it is believed that the propellant charge was in operation during the flight of the projectile. The statement that [] did not hear any noise was probably due to the fact that the projectile had a supersonic velocity.

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- (4) For location of range and targets there, see Annex #.
(5) The utilization of rockets was observed for the first time. The observations made indicate that training in bomb release from level flights at an altitude of 50 to 60 meters is stressed, because the dropping of bombs from an altitude of about 2,000 meters was seldom observed. A flight probably represents the smallest attacking element of ground attack units. The distance of about 100 meters from flight to flight is believed to be chosen for safety reasons in order to prevent the aircraft involved from being damaged by the bombs dropped from the preceding planes.

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Annex to

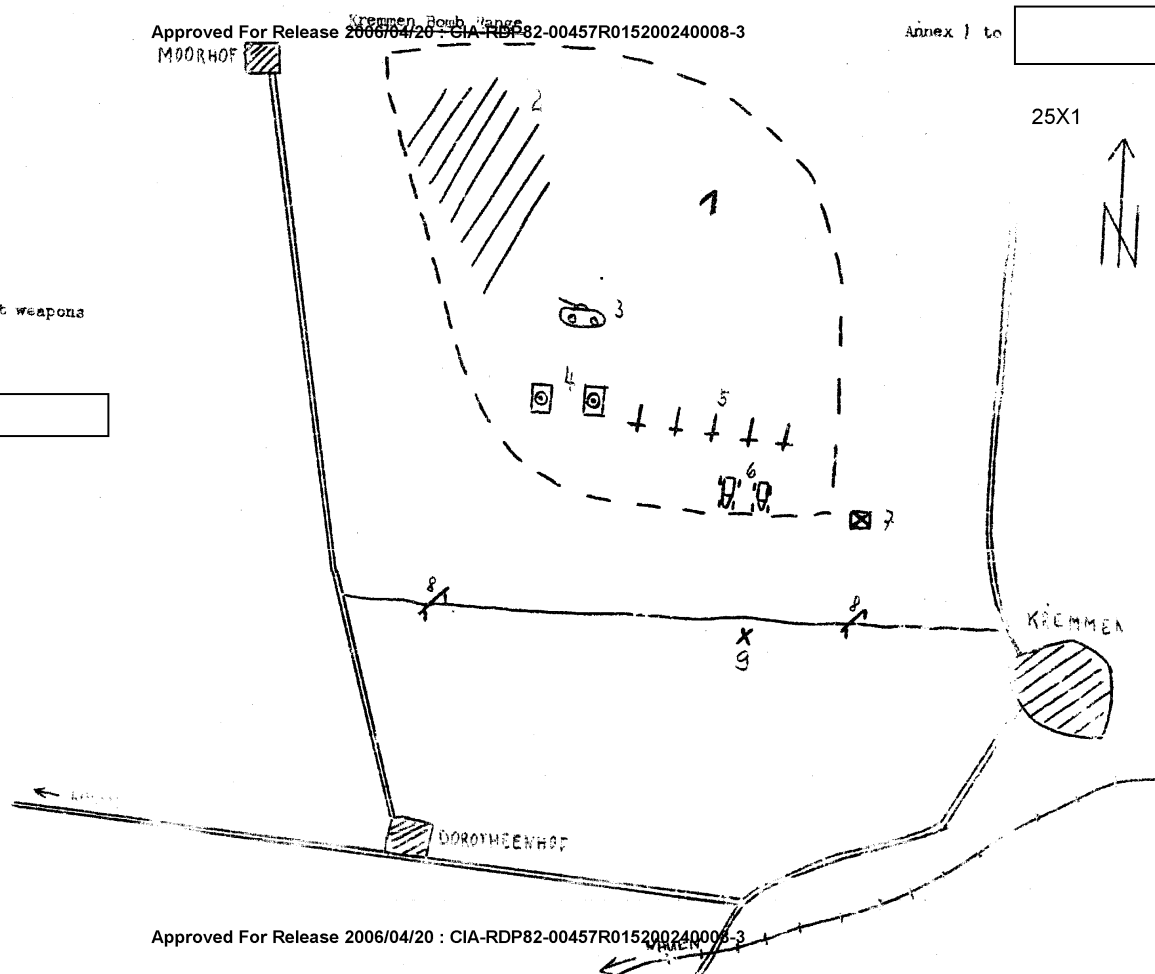
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Annex 1 to

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Legend:

1. Training area
2. Bomb range
3. Tank dummy
4. Targets for aircraft weapons
5. Aircraft dummies
6. Vehicle dummies
7. Observation tower
8. Barriers



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